

Intercessions on Sunday 18 May 2025

by Andrew Goodman

First reading: Acts 11. 1-48 (Peter's report to the Church at Jerusalem about Gentiles accepting the word of God)

Gospel: John 13.31-35 (Jesus' commandment to love one another)

Collect: Risen Christ, your wounds declare your love for the world and the wonder of your risen life: give us compassion and courage to risk ourselves for those we serve, to the glory of God the Father.

Psalm 1.1-3:

Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers, but whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and who meditates on his law day and night. That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither – whatever they do prospers.

Lord, as the Apostle Paul wrote, may our love be genuine, and may we hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good, love one another, contribute to the needs of the saints and extend hospitality to strangers. ¹

We thank you for the gifts you have given each of us with which to serve one another and work in your kingdom: in ministry, teaching, encouragement, generosity, leadership and compassion. ²

Lord, give wisdom to those with ministry and leadership responsibilities in St Andrew's: Bill, Scott, Geoff, Melanie, Adrian, Forbes, Kath, Maria, Nick, the Wardens and the

¹ Romans 12.9-13

² Romans 12.6-8

PCC, and Lord stir into prompt action whoever it is who is processing Scott's DBS check.

Lord, in your mercy - hear our prayer

Lord, in a week when the Prime Minister referred to living on an "island of strangers" and "incalculable" damage done by uncontrolled migration, those of us who have been treated in the NHS and cared for by migrants thank you for their presence and work amongst us, especially if we wouldn't be here now without them, we give you our thanks.

May the government think holistically and positively about fostering good integration.

Lord, we thank you for Herts Welcomes Refugees whom we support through our mission giving and the umbrella organisation of which they are part, 'Together with Refugees'. Bless their efforts to put an end to division, hostile language, short-term thinking and wasted human potential. Bless their 'Fair Begins Here' campaign for an asylum system that is well-managed, fair and compassionate.

Lord, in your mercy - hear our prayer

At this time of the end of the academic year, Lord, we remember all pupils and students who have sat or will be shortly sitting exams, and those who have submitted course work dissertations and theses in schools, colleges and universities.

Lord, we thank you for the schools with which we have particular connections and involvement: St Andrew's and Hertingfordbury Cowper Primary Schools, and St Joseph's in the Park. Bless and inspire the teaching and learning in these schools, and their impact on families and the communities within which they are based.

We thank you too, Lord, for Young Life on their 25th Anniversary of working in and around Hertford. Bless Michael and Bethan Hunter in their wider ministry, and Bryan, Hilary and Helen as they seek to re-open opportunities to work within local secondary schools.

Lord, in your mercy - hear our prayer

Lord, we are aware that it is likely that most of the pupils and students we have just prayed for will have had their education affected by the Covid 19 pandemic and lock downs, an extra pressure on what can be a stressful time. Lord, we also want to bring before you children who have been robbed of their education by violent conflict, poverty or disaster.

Lord, we thank you for every initiative to negotiate ceasefires and the end to conflict, whatever the motivation, so that school children in Ukraine, Palestine, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Sudan and many other countries will be able to return to their homes, have the opportunity to rebuild their lives again in safety and benefit from an enriching education.

Lord, in your mercy - hear our prayer

Lord, comfort all those who are suffering physically, mentally and emotionally in the conflicts we remembered earlier in our prayers. May they have access to resources that can bring recovery.

We commit to you those known to us locally who are unwell:

Restore to them the healing and joy of your salvation.

Lord, comfort all those mourning the loss of loved ones in the conflicts we remembered earlier in our prayers.

We remember those known to us locally who have died recently:

Lord, we thank you for sending the Holy Spirit to comfort us and give us peace. Bring comfort and reassurance to those who mourn that you are with them in their pain and sorrow.

We remember the anniversaries of:

Lord, in your mercy - hear our prayer

Lord, keep us on the right path, as the psalmist put it, to delight in the word of the Lord and meditate on it day and night, so that we are like trees planted by streams of water, yielding fruit in season, and whose leaves do not wither. ³

Prosper the work of our hands and minds this week, in whatever situations we find ourselves.

Merciful Father.....accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen

³ Psalm 1.1-3